

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

- 1.-10. (Cancelled)
11. (New) A mechanical pencil comprising:  
a body extending longitudinally along an axis X between a forward writing end and a rear end;  
an endpiece situated at the forward end;  
a lead guide that can be retracted into said endpiece and comprising a conduit for the passage of a lead and for its guidance in translational movement along said axis X;  
and  
a lead brake made of an elastically deformable material connected to said lead guide, said lead brake comprising at least one region of friction between the lead and said lead brake to limit the movement of the lead in said lead guide, and at least one region of friction between said endpiece and said lead brake to limit the movement of said lead guide in the endpiece,  
wherein each region of friction between the lead and said lead brake is shifted angularly about the axis X relative to each region of friction between said endpiece and said lead brake.
12. (New) The mechanical pencil according to claim 11, wherein said brake, considered perpendicularly to the axis X, includes an elongate shape, wherein regions of said endpiece-lead brake friction being formed at each end of the elongate shape.
13. (New) The mechanical pencil according to claim 11, wherein said lead brake includes an annular shape.
14. (New) The mechanical pencil according to claim 11, wherein said lead brake is positioned on said lead guide between two shoulders.

15. (New) The mechanical pencil according to claim 11, wherein the conduit of said lead guide comprises at least one opening through which said lead brake acts on the lead, in a region of lead-lead-guide friction.

16. (New) The mechanical pencil according to claim 11, wherein two diametrically opposed regions of endpiece-lead brake friction are provided, and wherein two diametrically opposed regions of lead-lead brake friction are provided, the regions of lead-lead brake friction being angularly shifted about 90 degrees relative to the regions of lead-lead brake friction.

17. (New) The mechanical pencil according to claim 11, wherein said lead brake includes a torus-shape before being fitted on said lead guide.

18. (New) The mechanical pencil according to claim 11, wherein said lead guide and said lead brake form a one-piece component composed of at least two materials.

19. (New) The mechanical pencil according to claim 11, wherein said lead guide includes at least one portion made of a synthetic resin on which said lead brake is overmolded in an elastomer.

20. (New) The mechanical pencil according to claim 11, wherein said lead guide forms the forward end of a cartridge comprising a lead feed mechanism and mounted removably inside said body.

21. (New) A mechanical pencil comprising:  
a body extending longitudinally along an axis X between a forward writing end and a rear end;  
an endpiece situated at the forward end;  
a lead guide that can be retracted into said endpiece and comprising a conduit for the passage of a lead and for its guidance in translational movement along said axis X;  
and  
a lead brake made of an elastically deformable material connected to said lead guide, said lead brake comprising at least one region of friction between the lead and said lead brake to limit the movement of the lead in said lead guide, and at least one region of

friction between said endpiece and said lead brake to limit the movement of said lead guide in the endpiece,

wherein each region of friction between the lead and said lead brake is shifted angularly about the axis X relative to each region of friction between said endpiece and said lead brake, and

wherein said lead brake is positioned on said lead guide between two shoulders.

22. (New) A mechanical pencil comprising:

a body extending longitudinally along an axis X between a forward writing end and a rear end;

an endpiece situated at the forward end;

a lead guide that can be retracted into said endpiece and comprising a conduit for the passage of a lead and for its guidance in translational movement along said axis X; and

a lead brake made of an elastically deformable material connected to said lead guide, said lead brake comprising at least one region of friction between the lead and said lead brake to limit the movement of the lead in said lead guide, and at least one region of friction between said endpiece and said lead brake to limit the movement of said lead guide in the endpiece,

wherein each region of friction between the lead and said lead brake is shifted angularly about the axis X relative to each region of friction between said endpiece and said lead brake, and

wherein said lead guide and the said lead brake form a one-piece component composed of at least two materials.